

HOUSE BILL 1873
By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8; Title 16
and Title 17, relative to the election of judges.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 17-1-301, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(c) Effective September 1, 2003, if a vacancy, for whatever reason, occurs in the office of a judge of the supreme court, then the vacancy in such office shall be filled by the qualified voters of the state at the next biennial election in August, occurring more than thirty (30) days after such vacancy arises, and in accordance with the requirements of § 16-3-101. In the meantime, the governor shall appoint a person who is constitutionally qualified and licensed to practice law in this state to discharge the duties of such office until such election is conducted.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-3-101, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(f) Effective September 1, 2003, each election for judge of the supreme court shall be by the qualified voters of the state in an open, competitive election in which all

qualified candidates for the office may be listed on the ballot and in which the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected to such office.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 17, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 17-4-119. Effective September 1, 2003, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the election of or filling of a vacancy in the office of a judge of the supreme court. On or after such date, the provisions of § 16-3-101 and § 17-1-301 shall govern such elections and filling of vacancies in such office.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.